

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 8th February 1902.

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REPORT

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the information received from the source.

2. The information was obtained from a confidential source who has provided reliable information in the past.

3. The information is being provided to you for your information and use.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

116. It is satisfactory to learn, says the *Bengalee*, that overtures of peace have at last been made by the Boers through the Dutch Government. Mr. Balfour has, however, maintained a mysterious silence as to the nature of the peace proposals which are still under consideration. Great Britain virtually demands an unconditional surrender, and will be satisfied with nothing less. But the writer is sure that she is amenable to reason, and will not take up an uncompromising attitude, unless indeed she is really bent, as alleged by some Opposition speakers, upon what has been called a policy of "extermination." She would be acting in consonance to her liberal traditions if she were to leave to the Boers some vestiges of their lost independence, so far as might be compatible with her Imperial interests.

BENGALIAN,
1st Feb. 1902.

117. The *Indian Mirror* sees the ordering of the gods in the manner in which China has come out stronger for the combined armed attack of Europe to crush her. It was a woman who saved the Empire—a woman who was hunted by all Europe and denounced as a curse to China. But now the same Powers openly and solemnly recognise that woman as the *de facto* supreme ruler of China. Asiatics understand that in the Kali Yuga, that period of time extending over several thousand years, it is a woman who reigns supreme over all mundane affairs. Thus did Queen Victoria flourish and thus is the Empress-Dowager of China crowned by her persistent enemies.

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th Feb. 1902.

From these facts, the *Mirror* deduces the probable reawakening of China, her marching with the times, her emulating Japan, and in time becoming a Power to be reckoned with. Thus will Asia become once more the greatest and most potent civilising force in the universe.

118. Continuing its observations on this subject, the *Indian Mirror* says that the "re-awakening" of China has come in real earnest. The Dowager-Empress has realised the situation, acknowledged her own lapses as well as those of the Manchu Dynasty, and promised reforms. A good beginning has already been made, which, if persevered in, may be attended before long with the happiest prospect for China.

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th Feb. 1902.

The partition by the grabbing, greedy European Powers has vanished into space, and boastful Europe is asked to note and digest the fact, and, if wise, prepare for the old Asiatic ascendancy.

119. Under this title, and reverting to its previous articles on the re-awakening of China, the same paper points to Japan's achievements as the result of her self-help, self-reliance, her patriotism and national union, and China's present disposition to rehabilitate herself, as a lesson which Indians would do well to lay to heart. It apprehends a great future for China, and is of opinion that China, and not Japan, will become the Paramount Asiatic Power. "That much abused personage, the aged Empress-Dowager of China, may, after all, become the beacon-torch of Asia, the torch round which all Asiatics may rally to the dismay of European invaders and intruders. Those lessons Japan and China learnt from Europeans. Can we Indians not do the same? If we had that union, for good or for evil, which we find among the ruling classes in this country, we should not be buffeted about, and chucked hither and thither, and be reduced into the state of the sorry, battered creatures that we really are. We have helped ourselves unto our helplessness and undoing. Let us by personal sacrifices, by self-help as a nation, by renunciation, by cheerfully accepting or ignoring the good or evil that may befall us, but always taking the straight course, and never looking behind or to the right or to the left; but ever with both eyes fixed on the goal of national achievement, let us press forward and leave the consequences to the judgment of the gods!"

INDIAN MIRROR,
5th Feb. 1902.

120. It was by a policy of magnanimity, says the *Bengalee*, that the Imperial nations of the world acquired Empires and retained them. The Romans conquered more by a generous policy, and coming down to more recent times, the good resultant from England's Colonial Policy has to-day

BENGALIAN,
4th Feb. 1902.

British Rule in Canada and India.

been manifested by the United Empire gathering round the flag of the mother-country to defend its integrity, its honour, and its prestige against the Boers.

Where, asks the *Bengalee*, can a more memorable triumph of the policy of conciliation be found than in Canada. The French Canadians, smarting under a national defeat and on the verge of rebellion, were tactfully insinuated into the Government of the country, and to-day the dominion flourishes under the premiership of Sir Edward Laurier, a Frenchman.

The journal concludes thus:—

"A similar policy in India would produce similar results. The concession of British freedom in India would remove all racial irritations, would unite Indians and domiciled Europeans into a common brotherhood, anxious to maintain their common privileges and to uphold the honour and the dignity of the Empire, which guarantees to them their cherished rights. Such a concession, while it would mean the fulfilment of England's noble mission in India, would, by allaying racial irritations, remove one of the greatest difficulties which beset the path of the Indian statesman."

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st Feb. 1902.

121. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* comments on the acquittal, on the plea of drunkenness, of the European Head Constable of the Burma Police, who was charged with having fired at a native constable.

If the position had been reversed, and the European was the complainant in the case, would, asks the *Patrika*, the Magistrate have dealt with the case in the same way? The popular belief is that there is one law for the Indians and another for the Europeans.

BENGALUR,
2nd Feb. 1902.

122. Referring to the same case the *Bengalee* understands that the consensus of public opinion in Burma seems to be that adequate notice ought to have been taken of the Police Officer's conduct in the interests of discipline.

The case furnishes a notable illustration of the elasticity of the law in British India in favour of one bearing a European name.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BENGALUR,
31st Jan. 1902.

123. In connection with the death of Babu Nanda Lal, Subordinate Judge of Khulna, the *Bengalee* writes:—

The late Babu Nanda Lal, Subordinate Judge of Khulna.

"Here is a Subordinate Judge who dies through overwork in the service of the Government because, for some reason or other, the Government will not provide an additional Subordinate Judge for Khulna. The work there is heavy. The people and the Press have again and again appealed to the Government to appoint an Additional Sub-Judge or a District Judge; but Government will not listen, until something like a catastrophe has taken place by the death of a meritorious public servant. Here is an object-lesson, the significance of which cannot be over-estimated. We trust the Government will lose no time to remove a grievance and avert a scandal."

BENGALUR,
2nd Feb. 1902.

124. The *Bengalee* comments on the inconsistencies of High Court judgments and orders as shown in the matter of Bipradas Mukerjee and Dwarka Nath Sinha.

▲ High Court case.

Their trial was postponed to suit the convenience of the Court, and the Judge refused to recognise the Ross case as a precedent, and would not grant bail, although the offence was less heinous than that committed by Mr. Ross.

The Appellate Court insisted on hearing the case at once, and without distinguishing the Lyall case or giving reasons, decided that no appeal lay, and that even if there were an appeal the court would not be disposed to interfere with the discretion of the Judge. That the latter exercised an arbitrary and not a proper and judicial discretion was shown from the fact that the Appellate Court saw Mr. Justice Stevens during the midday adjournment, and a third application to him resulted in bail being granted.

125. As an indictment against police rule which prevails throughout the country, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the remarks of Mr. Justice Prinsep acquitting on appeal an accused sentenced to death by the Sessions Judge of Mymensingh, although the jury who sat on the case returned a verdict of not guilty.

It hopes the result of this case will have a salutary effect on Mr. B. Nicholl, the Sessions Judge of Mymensingh, and that he will not in future play with the lives of his fellow-creatures. He should also be thankful to the High Court for sparing him the consequences of what might be called a judicial murder. As regards the police concerned, the *Patrika* hopes the local authorities will take action.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Feb. 1902.

126. While not justifying Mr. Sarvadhikari's behaviour in Court, the *Bengalee* regrets the decision arrived at by the Full Bench, as Mr. Justice Blair was also at fault and would appear to have struck the first blow. The Judge should have kept his temper under any circumstances. He made another mistake by dismissing the case in which Mr. Sarvadhikari was engaged, and passing over without comment two subsequent appeals against which his name appeared. These cases should have been made over to a colleague.

The Full Bench decision is found to be defective owing to the refusal of Mr. Sarvadhikari's request to cite Mr. Blair as a witness, and it is deplored that action was taken by the Court on the representation of a single Barrister and not the whole Bar.

BENGALIEE
4th Feb. 1902.

127. The *Bengalee* gives particulars of a case in which the Subdivisional Officer of Barh, Patna, passed an order under section 195 of the Criminal Procedure Code sanctioning a prosecution under section 188 of the Penal Code. The dispute which lay between some raiyats of Barh and their Tikadar, Nanda Kisor Singh, arose out of the latter attempting to realise enhanced rents in kind.

The raiyats moved the High Court against the Subdivisional Officer's order, and a rule granted by Ghose and Harrington, J. J., was heard by Mr. Justice Prinsep and Mr. Justice Stephen. Neither the District Magistrate nor the Subdivisional Officer showed cause against the rule, but in spite of strict rules of practice a new departure was made by Mr. Dunne being authorised to appear on behalf of a private individual interested in contesting the rule. The advocacy of Mr. Dunne succeeded in putting to sleep the vast experience and the fine legal acumen of Mr. Justice Prinsep, for both he and Mr. Justice Stephen declined to interfere with the Subdivisional Officer's order, although it was manifestly wrong and illegal.

BENGALIEE.
5th Feb. 1902.

(d)—Education.

128. The *Bengalee* says that it has complained again and again of the forces of reaction being in the ascendant in the councils of the Empire, and the *personnel* of the University Commission affords another illustration of the truth of this remark. It is profoundly dissatisfied with the appointment of Mr. Syed Hossein Belgrami as the only native member of the Commission. He is described as a Government man of the most pronounced type, and one who would be a more emphatic echo of official opinion than any official organ. There were Dr. Guru Das Banerji, in Bengal, and Dr. Bhandarkar in Bombay, two Indian *ex-Vice-Chancellors* who are educationists of note, intimately acquainted with the University and the work of the University. The writer fails to understand why they should not have found a place on the Commission. He concludes as follows:—

"Our truly representative men are not in favour. It is officials, masked in the guise of representative men, whom the Government would put forward to pose as our chosen leaders. Vain hope. The Government may do a great many things—its omnipotence cannot be questioned. But its empire does not extend over the domain of the human mind. It has not yet learnt the art of making people think contrary to their convictions; and Mr. Belgrami will

BENGALIEE
1st Feb. 1902.

not be accepted by us as our representative, because the Government has put him there as such. We have distinguished men who are our leaders in educational matters. None of them find a place on the Commission. The Commission thus embarks upon its labours, handicapped by the weight of an adverse public opinion. It is a deplorable mistake to persevere in a blunder. Is it too late to rectify it?"

Elsewhere the same paper adds :—

"We have a suggestion for the consideration of the Commission. The Commission should, we think, frame questions and circulate them among Associations and experts whose evidence it is anxious to obtain. The witnesses ought to come prepared to give evidence, if their evidence is to be worth anything. We believe the procedure we have suggested was followed by the Education Commission and the Public Service Commission. The questions would indicate the scope of the enquiry and would help forward the public discussion of the problems upon which the Commission has been invited to formulate their recommendations. We trust our suggestions will be accepted."

INDIAN NATION,
5th Feb. 1902.

129. The *Indian Nation* writes that this Committee is not in a position to improve the system of higher education, as its members, who are for the most part civilians, are ignorant of the "system or systems of higher education which existed before the establishment of Indian Universities; of the intellectual, moral and social results of the old system and the new; and of the manner in which either system may have tended to repress talents by an absence of opportunities for their display." If, a "well-written, well-arranged report," which would do no good to the people, is wanted, then the present committee is a suitable one; but if it is the intention of Government to form a scheme of higher education well-adapted to the intellectual and social needs of the people, only a Committee of which one-third of the members were graduates of English Universities, one-third eminent Indians brought up under the old system, and one-third brought up by the Indian Universities would, in the opinion of the *Nation*, be a qualified one.

BENGALIEE,
4th Feb. 1902.

In this connection the *Bengalee* draws the attention of Lord Curzon to the ostracism of the Hindu Community, and asks why the Hindus, who are always deeply interested in educational matters, have not been represented in the University Commission.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
5th Feb. 1902

130. The *Hindoo Patriot* is grateful to His Excellency the Viceroy for the great work he has undertaken of reforming the Indian Universities, and would have all parties interested in the movement to combine and help His Excellency.

It approves of the constitution of the Commission, and thinks the member have been well chosen and that they will do their work thoroughly and well. It holds that the unfavourable opinion expressed of Nawab Sayed Hossain Belgrami is based on ignorance of the Nawab's character and qualifications. He is a thoroughly independent man and well qualified by previous training and experience to give advice to his colleagues.

(e)—Municipal administration and Local Self-Government.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
1st Jan. 1902.

131. The *Hindoo Patriot* comments strongly on the reckless manner in which things are being done by the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, and points out that in spite of the warning conveyed by the judgment in the case of Gopal Chander Biswas *versus* the Calcutta Corporation, another case of illegal seizure of property has come to notice.

With the object of realizing arrear municipal rates for the year 1894 from the owners of bustee lands in No. 1, Chetla Road, the Bailiff was ordered to seize the property of the defaulter, but instead of doing so he seized the property of another gentleman who occupies a respectable position in society.

Babu Nogendro Nath Bose protested in vain, and has been compelled to resort to legal measures. The journal appeals to the Chairman of the Corporation to take notice of the Bailiff's action.

132. The *Indian Nation* writes:—"Sweeping in the afternoon, which should be a blessing, has proved a curse. The practice was thrust on the executive by Commissioners who expected that accumulations of refuse would be removed from the streets and lessen conservancy work for the morning. In the northern parts of the town, especially in crowded and narrow lanes, accumulations begin from about 10 in the morning—only about an hour after the last deposits are removed. They remain and fester for about 24 hours. This is hardly desirable. Hence the proposals that were made for an afternoon conservancy. The accumulations consist mostly of leavings of food,—rice, bones of fish, stones and skin of fruits and the like,—together with plantain leaves and various other forms of refuse. It was expected that under the new system, these would be removed in the afternoon, at any rate partially. But this is not done. The dusty streets are swept, and dust is raised. Nothing else is done, nothing is removed. Men are annoyed; furniture is covered with dust; and, at best, dust is removed from the surface of the streets and piled in small quantities on one side. But these are again blown over the streets, and the sweeping work, poor as it is, is undone. The sooner this farce of an afternoon conservancy is stopped the better for all parties."

INDIAN NATION,
8th Feb. 1902.

(b)—Questions affecting the Land.

133. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* differs from Lord Curzon in the opinion that land revenue is moderate, and makes out that though this is the only payment Indians have to make to the Government, it results in their dying of starvation.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st Jan. 1902.

It supports His Excellency's objection to Princes leaving India and zamindars neglecting their tenants, but at the same time asks whether the British Government are not the greatest offenders in this regard. In fact the main cause of India's poverty is attributed to the unparalleled absenteeism of the Government.

As regards Lord Curzon's accusation that the zamindars employ unsympathetic agents, the *Patrika* asks the Government to remedy first the oppression to their European nominees, who are described as "birds of passage who come to make a good pile and fly home again."

134. The *Bengalee* quotes the testimony of Sir Ashley Eden as to the *ticcadari* system, or the rack renting of the raiyats by the Indigo planters, having caused the ruin of Behar. It refers to the action taken by Sir Ashley to remedy matters, and complains that as the old system still prevails, money which legitimately belongs to the raiyats goes into the pockets of European adventurers.

BENGALIEE,
4th Jan. 1902.

Tirhoot, where the cultivation is carried on to the largest extent, is always subject to famine, and the Governor-General in Council is asked to enquire into the matter and remedy the evil.

Bengal, in spite of its permanent settlement, would have shared the same fate as Behar if the indigo-planters had not been expelled.

(g)—Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.

135. The evidence of Mr. Douie, Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government, before the Irrigation Commission, discloses, says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the fact that the Government can save people from grain and water famine in certain places in the Punjab by the construction of drinking-water tanks, but it does not do so on financial grounds. Mr. Douie insists that the necessary funds should be supplied by the Government of India, not from any prospect of profit, but from the point of view that, as the people of the tracts suffer from poverty and ill-health, it is the duty of the rulers to save them from death. Funds, says the writer, are always forthcoming for imperial works, but where the vital and immediate interests of the people are concerned, the plea of no money is always raised.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA
1st Jan. 1902.

(h)—General.

BEHAR HERALD,
29th Jan. 1902.

136. The *Behar Herald* protests that its recommendation of Mr. Ogilvie for the Assistant Managership of the Hutwa Estate, was made for the good of the estate. The Darbhanga

The Hutwa Raj.

Raj is an example of good management due to the employment of highly paid European officers, a fact recognised by the Maharaja, who did not think it worth his while to be patriotic at the cost of the best interests of the Raj. In Hutwa itself the exceptional abilities of Babu Bhubaneshwar Dutt were duly recognised by the late Maharaja. Racial consideration should therefore not stand in the way of filling up such responsible posts.

It would appear that Government is not willing to spare the services of any Deputy Magistrate for the Assistant Managership of Hutwa, in which case the journal considers that the present pay of the post should be cut down for the officer next in rank to Babu Bepin Behari Bose, or raised to attract a really capable European officer.

INDIAN MIRROR,
31st Jan. 1902.

137. Commenting on the futility of conferences and commissions, the

Lord Curzon and the poverty problem in India.

Indian Mirror entreats Lord Curzon to take up the question of the material welfare of the people as his first problem for solution. The Viceroy cannot

himself get at all the facts connected with this subject, and it is the optimism and fancied self-security of those on whom he depends for information that has increased Indian's misfortunes, and rendered them well-nigh insupportable. Lord Curzon doubtless honestly believes that India is better off than ever, but the people themselves, who are the sufferers, think differently. A prosperity budget is shown by the usual collection of revenue, but a dangerous state of things looms in the near future, when no revenue will be gathered owing to their being none to receive.

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
31st Jan. 1902.

138. The following is taken from the *Amrita Basar Patrika* :—

Bihar.

"As Bengal was at one time, so Bihar now is ruled by non-official Europeans. The authority of

Government in Bengal does not extend as far as Bihar. There the Government does not venture to send any native *hakim*. The Europeans will have no native Magistrate in their Province. The phrase 'My dear Konstam' originated in Bihar. At one time the zamindars were inconvenient factors there, but they are now all dead. Minority is the normal condition of Bihar, said Sir John Woodburn the other day, and minority means the rule of non-official Europeans.

BENGALÉE,
31st Jan. 1902.

139. The *Bengalée* publishes a letter received from Kadihati, a village

Field-firing on the Rifle Range of Dum Dum.

near Dum-Dum, protesting against the action of the Military authorities in asking the inhabitants to leave the village for a couple of days in view of

the proposed field-firing being carried on without accidents. The journal identifies itself with the protest, and appeals to Sir John Woodburn and the civil authorities to strenuously oppose this "astounding proposal" as it would be a source of serious danger to the villagers concerned.

BENGALÉE,
2nd Feb. 1902.

140. Reverting to this subject the *Bengalée* proposes that a Subordinate

Separation of the Judicial and the Executive.

Criminal Judicial Service should be formed on the model of the Subordinate Civil Judicial Service with the High Court for its real head, and the

District Judge for its head in the mufasil. This can be easily accomplished with the present materials in districts and sub-divisions, and without much additional expense, although the expenditure of a few lakhs for an important necessary reform should not be refused by a Government which pays the people's money as compensation allowances to its favoured servants.

The journal also advocates that a larger proportion of the zamindar element be introduced into the body of Honorary Magistrates by a judicious selection; that these men be vested with higher powers than those which they now exercise, and that they be placed directly under the supervision of the District Judge and the High Court as munsifs are at present.

European Magistrates do not understand the ways and habits of the people, and this drawback in administering criminal justice will be removed by

increasing the number of Honorary Magistrates who are capable of doing good judicial work, as shown in the Calcutta and Suburban Police Courts.

141. The *Indian Mirror* refers to the resentment caused in European and Indian circles by Sir Frederic Fryer being granted an extension of service, and warns Lord Curzon, who has consistently supported Sir Frederic Fryer, that even he, secure as he is in popularity, cannot and ought not to fly in the face of public opinion.

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th Feb. 1902.

The Lieutenant-Governorship of Burma. The journal would have been delighted to find the name of Mr. Donald Smeaton gazetted as the next Lieutenant-Governor of Burma, and regrets that Mr. Smeaton's further promotion will be stopped by retirement.

Mr. Cotton who has served India so well will also retire shortly, and it is considered very hard that two such brilliant men are almost driven out of work without adequate compensation.

142. The *Bengalee* mentions the names of the 16 plague doctors who have been admitted into the Indian Medical Service on account of "good service rendered in connection with the plague," and enquires why none of the many distinguished officers, graduates of Indian Universities, have been thought of, although they have rendered meritorious service to the Government.

BENGALIEE,
5th Feb. 1902.

If the Indian Medical Service has been unpopular in England, simultaneous examinations held in England and India would lead to there being no lack of competitors.

The Indian Medical Associations are called on to protest against this ignoring of the claims of Indian Medical graduates, some of whom are infinitely superior to the gentlemen who have been appointed.

143. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror*:—

INDIAN MIRROR,
6th Feb. 1902.

Tommy Atkins and Ramaswamy. "The *Pioneer* announces that 'recruiting for the new native infantry regiment to be raised in Coorg will now be proceeded with, and it is expected that sufficient men will be obtained.' We scarcely understand how 'sufficient men' can be obtained under the prospects of little pay and little promotion. The rupee has lost its old purchasing value, and the slight increase recently given does not make up for the deficiency. We have it on to authority of a retired Major in the Indian Medical Service that privates as well as officers in the 'native' regiments have not the wherewithal to go to their homes when the period of their service is ended. The Government provides the passage money, it is true. But a subscription list has to be circulated among the officers for money to take the sepoy's family home. This is a disgraceful state of things. Tommy is pampered. Ramaswamy must beg, borrow, or steal."

144. Writing on Lord George Hamilton's reply to Mr. Caine, that now the people of India are better able to withstand the effects of drought, and that every branch of the Land Revenue in India was increasing, the *Amrita Basar Patrika*, exclaims:—

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
6th Feb. 1902.

Lord George Hamilton's "Criminal optimism." "Now that our sovereign is a man, will not His Imperial Majesty protect his Indian subjects from the criminal optimism of the Secretary of State who, though famine is decimating the country these five years, had the heartlessness to declare that India was better off now than twenty years ago. We implore His Imperial Majesty to do it, instead of his Viceroy, because the latter is quite helpless in the matter. The Indians have not, for a long time, come across such a sympathetic Royal address as was delivered by the King-Emperor on the occasion of the opening of Parliament."

145. Referring to the deliberations of the International Congress of Comparative Law, which met in Paris in 1900, and as the result of which a circular has been issued in Europe and America with a view to ascertain to what extent (if any) sentences are or should be influenced by general conceptions of the object of punishment, or by matters bearing either on the Principle on which criminals are punished in India.

AMRITA BASAR
PATRIKA,
6th Feb. 1902.

offence itself or on the character of the individual committing it, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—

"Now, if any country is interested in this question it is India. On what principle the Judges in this country, as a rule, pass sentences nobody knows. The general notion is that it is for the good of society that punishments are inflicted upon criminals. But in India criminals are often punished against whom not only has the Indian society no complaint, but with whom the vast majority of the people are in sympathy. Then again, nowhere in the world is the criminal sentence so unduly ferocious as in this country. Fancy that the editor of a vernacular newspaper was sentenced to transportation for life for simply preferring the Canadian system of Government to the one that prevails in India! Then not only are capital sentences passed here with a light heart, but reprieve is almost unknown. In short, the system of criminal administration is both directly and indirectly emasculating the whole nation. But it goes without saying that the Commission alluded to above have never heard of India, or if they have heard of it, they are not going to send the circular to any one in this unfortunate country."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
6th Feb. 1902.

146. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* cites the testimony of Mr. J. H. Oldfield, D. C. L., of London, in the London *Daily News*, as

The value of the impartial testimony of eye-witnesses.

to the poverty that prevails in this country, and suggests that the poverty question can be settled at once if His Excellency the Viceroy would travel through the country *in cognito*. Such a tour would convince him that the prevailing poverty has no parallel in any other part of the world, but it would present this danger, that seeing for himself the real state of affairs, 'his kind heart will refuse to take his pay, drawn from a starving people.'

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st Jan. 1902.

147. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* considers the attitude of His Excellency

Lord Curzon and Native Chief's Colleges.

the Viceroy in the matter of imparting a liberal education to Indian Chiefs very sympathetic, but asks what is the field open to them at the termination of this college career—a life of obscurity in the Chief's own State which is governed by a Political Officer and a Dewan? Are these the people who are called "Ruling Chiefs!"

BENGALURU,
31st Jan. 1902.

148. The *Bengalee* agrees with His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda

Ibid.

in attributing the failure of the modern Native Prince as a ruler to a system of education which is "too primary to develop the mental powers." As the general inefficiency of the products of Raj Kumar Colleges has also attracted Lord Curzon's notice, the paper suggests the establishment of a great central college for the Princes of India, with schools in various centres, which are to be regarded as so many feeders of the College. The teaching in these Schools should be of a reasonably high standard, so as to qualify students for the higher course in the Central College, where they will be sufficiently trained to enable them to cope with their work as rulers.

BENGALURU,
1st Jan. 1902.

149. The *Bengalee* is pleased that the little State of Pudukotta is following in the footsteps of the representative Assembly of Mysore, and says:—

"Advance Pudukotta."

"The opponents of Indian progress are in the habit of telling us that representative institutions are an exotic in this country, and that they can never thrive in the uncongenial atmosphere of India. A few more representative assemblies in the Native States would completely silence this class of superficial critics."

BENGALURU,
4th Feb. 1902.

150. The *Bengalee* writes:—

A case of excommunication in Cochin.

"We must say we deeply deplore the action of His Highness the Hindu ruler of Cochin in placing under a royal ban of excommunication a Mr. Nair, the head and front of whose offence seems to be that he had been to Europe. We almost despair of the Ruler of a Native State who has yet to appreciate and take advantage of the utility of foreign travel. This is the age of toleration and

progress, and the Raja of Cochin should specially profit by the prosperity of Japan and be warned by the fate of China. It is foreign travel and the introduction of all that is good in foreign methods that has made the former the Empress of the East, and it is nothing but blind opposition to innovation that has brought the latter next door to dismemberment and disintegration. We repeat, the action of the Raja of Cochin cannot commend itself to any rational being."

151. The following is taken from the *Indian Empire*:—

INDIAN EMPIRE,
4th Feb. 1902.

The Maharaja of Panna's trial. "The trial of the Maharaja of Panna has practically ended in his conviction of the murder of his late uncle, the Rao Raja. Now Lord Curzon will have to decide what sort of punishment will be meted out to him. Without saying anything upon the merits of the case, which, situated as we are, we are not competent to do, we think we shall be justified in expressing our disapproval of the constitution of the Commission which tried the Maharaja. We have no objection to raise against the *personnel* of the Commission as constituted, but what we do contend is that the most fundamental principle of law in every civilised country, India included, has not been observed in constituting this Commission, in denying the Maharaja the privilege of being tried by his peers. Even the very lowest Indian accused has the privilege of asking for a jury, a majority of which shall consist of Indians. But this privilege was apparently denied to the Maharaja, though he was charged with a very serious offence, and he was tried by two aliens who, however able they may be, could not be familiar with Indian feelings and customs as Indian members of the Commission could be. We hope Lord Curzon will take this fact into consideration in coming to a decision in the matter."

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

152. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
31st Jan. 1902.

Scarcity in Contai. "The poor people of Contai are in a state of chronic suffering. God knows how many men, woman, and children do silently succumb to the cruel pangs of hunger. Reports to hand inform us that the mother and the wife of Krishna Samal of village Cechua in Contai have died of starvation, leaving a little child quite destitute and helpless. If this is true the rich folks of the country have cause enough to feel ashamed of their apathy."

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

153. The *Hindoo Patriot* is of opinion that it is a happy Hindu sign of the times that female culture in various forms in spite of the assertions of interested and ignorant writers, is making rapid progress in India, and it behoves the leaders to yield to the inevitable, and adopt means to regulate within proper bounds the legitimate aspirations of Indian women. If the leaders fail to do their duty, the women will assert their liberty in their own way, and the *Patriot* can well imagine the disastrous results of such action.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
1st Feb. 1902

154. Inspired by Sir Mack worth Young's reply to the address of the Hindu Sabha at Amritsar, the *Hindoo Patriot* urges that Political associations are intended to promote good understanding between the Government and the people by representing the views of the latter with regard to legislative and administrative measures. Their influence depends in a great measure upon the leaders. If they are well chosen and powerfully supported, the representation which the Associations may make carry considerable weight with Government and are welcomed. These bodies would stand between the rulers and people, benefit them both, and be thus entitled to the lasting gratitude of the Government and the country.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
4th Feb. 1902.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 8th February 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

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